

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

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DRAFTED BY EB/ORF/OFPPD:RSSIMPSON:JV

APPROVED BY EB/ORF:JLKATZ

EA/ANZ:HLANGE

EB/ORF/OFPPD:MPBOERNER

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R 110207Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, AS, NZ

SUBJECT: 1975 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM

1. FOR CANBERRA. ON JANUARY 9, KATZ CALLED SMITH, COMMERCIAL MINISTER OF AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, AND STATED OUR CONCERN THAT THERE HAD YET BEEN NO INDICATION OF WHEN GOA WOULD OFFICIALLY RESPOND TO U.S. PROPOSAL OF 1975 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM. KATZ SAID HE HOPED THAT GOA WAS NOT DELAYING RESPONSE PENDING RESULTS OF CREAN VISIT TO WASHINGTON SINCE THIS COULD HAVE PRACTICAL EFFECT OF DELAYING FINAL RESOLUTION OF ISSUE UNTIL AT LEAST END OF JANUARY. HE STRESSED THAT IMPLEMENTATION U.S. POLICY CANNOT BE DELAYED FOR ANY LENGTHY PERIOD OF TIME FOLLOWING JANUARY 1 ANNOUNCEMENT ON MEAT BY USDA. WE
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NEEDED A TIMELY REACTION FROM MAJOR SUPPLIERS, ESPECIALLY

AUSTRALIA WHICH HAS OVER 50 PERCENT OF U.S. MARKET UNDER PROPOSED PROGRAM.

2. SMITH REPLIED THAT RELATIVELY LATE NOTIFICATION OF U.S. PROPOSAL AND HOLIDAY SEASON HAD MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOA TO RESPOND BY JANUARY 9, BUT SAID THAT HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO COMMUNICATE TO CANBERRA U.S. NEED FOR EARLY REPLY. KATZ SAID HE DID NOT EXPECT REPLY BY JANUARY 9, BUT HE THOUGHT MID-JANUARY REPLY WAS REASONABLE AND WAS CONCERNED THAT GOA HAD NOT EVEN INDICATED WHEN A RESPONSE COULD BE EXPECTED.

3. EMBASSY REQUESTED TAKE APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITIES TO URGE TIMELY AUSTRALIAN RESPONSE, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF STRONG U.S. POLITICAL INTEREST IN MATTER DUE TO DIFFICULT SITUATION OF U.S. LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY AND CONTINUING STATUS OF U.S. AS ONLY OPEN UNPROTECTED WORLD MARKET FOR MEAT.

4. FOR WELLINGTON. KATZ ALSO CALLED HOLDEN OF NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY AND MADE SIMILAR REQUEST FOR EARLY RESPONSE. YOU SHOULD ALSO SUPPORT THROUGH APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIONS, DRAWING ON ABOVE. KISSINGER

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